



U.S. Department of Justice
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Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

February 19, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. MICHAEL JONES

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that the Grand Jury returned a three-count Indictment charging Michael Jones, age 21, of Buffalo, New York, with the robbery of the Jamestown Savings Bank, located in Jamestown, New York, on December 9, 2002. In addition to the bank robbery count, the Indictment also charged Jones with one count of brandishing a firearm in furtherance of the robbery and a third count of conspiracy to commit bank robbery.

The Indictment alleges that Jones conspired with four other persons to commit the bank robbery. All four of the other alleged conspirators had previously been charged in criminal complaints in the case. The bank robbery offense, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a), carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000.00, or both. It should be noted that the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime . . . is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. (**Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6)**).

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory L. Brown, who presented the evidence to the Grand Jury, stated that the Indictment charged that the night before the robbery, Jones and a second man stole a vehicle from the driveway of a home in the Bailey-Kensington area of Buffalo. The next morning, Jones and three other persons, including the man who had helped him steal the car the night before, all drove together to Jamestown.

After arriving in Jamestown, Jones and his three companions drove to an apartment of a fifth person. There, Jones told this person that he and others were going to rob a bank and needed a change of clothing. After obtaining substitute clothing, Jones and three others proceeded to the Jamestown Savings Bank to rob it. Upon their arrival, Jones and another man, who was carrying a firearm, entered the bank and announced that they were robbing it.

Immediately thereafter, Jones vaulted over the bank counter and scooped almost \$14,000 out of the drawers of two bank tellers, while the other robber kept his handgun pointed directly at the two tellers. After stuffing the money into a plastic bag, the pair immediately fled from the bank in the stolen car, which was being driven by another accomplice.

Jones is expected to be arraigned before Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott on February 20, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. The indictment was the result of an investigation by the Jamestown Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent-In-Charge Peter Ahearn.